



**MINUTES  
OF THE  
CONSERVATION ACQUISITION BOARD (CAB)  
OF  
ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
Meeting of August 10, 2011  
Arizona State Parks  
1300 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair McNichol called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

CAB Members Present:	Christopher McNichol, Chair John Graham Taber Anderson Jeff Swango Melinda Gulick Stephen Brophy
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CAB Members Absent:	None
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Arizona State Parks Staff Present:	Jay Ziemann, Assistant Director, Arizona State Parks (ASP) Joy Hernbrode, Attorney General's Office Laurie Hachtel, Attorney General's Office Doris Pulsifer, Resources & Public Programs, ASP
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**B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

CAB members introduced themselves followed by introduction of staff.

**C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

1. **MOTION** by Ms. Gulick, **SECOND** by Mr. Anderson to re-appoint Christopher McNichol as Chair. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**D. ACTION ITEMS - Approval of minutes from the August 11, 2010 CAB meeting.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Graham, **SECOND** by Mr. Swango to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2010 CAB meeting. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**E. GRANT APPLICATIONS PRESENTATION**

**1. Consider Funding FY 2011 Growing Smarter State Trust Land Acquisition Projects.**

Chair McNichol announced that there were four applications for the CAB to consider and a total of \$40,460,000 available to divide among the applications. Although a total of \$80,920,000 is available for the FY 2011 cycle, per statute, no more than 50% of the total amount available may be awarded to projects in a single county. All four applications are from Maricopa County.

Mr. Graham commented on the fact that the four applications from the two cities exceeded the total amount available to distribute, and asked if it would be realistic to ask the cities if they would be willing and/or able to accept less than their requested amount?

The group decided to wait until after the grant applications are presented to determine how to best recommend distribution of the available funds.

Mr. Anderson asked to recuse himself during the discussion and vote regarding the application from the City of Scottsdale Parcel 2, because he owns neighboring land to that parcel.

**GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE GROWING SMARTER STATE TRUST LAND ACQUISITION GRANT FUND PROGRAM.**

Ms. Pulsifer gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Growing Smarter State Trust land Acquisition Grant Fund Program. (Copy of the presentation available to the public on request.) The funds made available to the Growing Smarter program derive from the Land Conservation Fund. The purpose of the Growing Smarter program is to make funding available to purchase suitable land for conservation in areas that are experiencing rapid growth. Through Proposition 303, the public mandated an annual appropriation of \$20 million. Of that sum, \$2 million goes to the Livestock and Crop Conservation Fund and \$18 million is made available to the Growing Smarter program. For the current cycle there is approximately \$80 million available for grants.

The following four grant applications were submitted:

- i. City of Phoenix - \$3,179,110 for the purchase of 317.911 acres of the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve – Priority 3B
- ii. City of Phoenix - \$2,710,530 for the purchase of 271.053 acres of the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve – Priority 3C
- iii. City of Scottsdale - \$25M for the purchase of 1,937.19 acres of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve – Parcel 2 – Rock Knob to Fraesfield Mountain
- iv. City of Scottsdale - \$25M for the purchase of 2,482.20 acres of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve – Parcel 3 – Rawhide Wash to Granite Mountain

The presentation included slides with maps of the lands and surrounding areas and pictures of various features for each project. The maps also noted lands that have been previously acquired for conservation purposes that are either adjacent or in the vicinity of the parcels that are currently being proposed for acquisition.

Discussion followed regarding the range of differences in the ratings among the applications. It was noted that the two Scottsdale applications rated higher than the Phoenix applications. Chair McNichol asked if that could be attributed to the size of the parcels.

Ms. Pulsifer replied that it was not so much the size of the parcels in the applications that affected the scores of the applications, as was the clarity or how in depth the responses were to the questions.

Mr. Ziemann followed up by stating that although the fact of the matter is that Phoenix did not score as high as Scottsdale on certain answers to the criteria, all of the properties are more than eligible and well worthy of receiving funding. Another factor that affected the scoring was the connectivity or lack thereof with existing lands that are protected.

Chair McNichol noted that this is the first year that the group may have to make some difficult decisions due to the fact that the amount of the grant requests exceed the total amount that is available to distribute.

In response to Ms. Gulick's question to the City of Phoenix as to what are the plans to maintain the wildlife corridors along the Sonoran boulevard, Mr. Chris Ewell responded that the main connectivity are the washes in the area.

Following additional questions from the group, Mr. Ewell indicated on the map shown on the screen, the lands that had been previously acquired and also

the changes to the future acquisition plan. He stated that while working with ASU and Arizona Game and Fish during the planning process it had been determined that the wash areas were just as important as the mountains. Therefore, the City has decided to focus on the wash areas first and the mountain areas in the future.

There was some brief discussion regarding access issues for utilities or other similar access needs. Ms. Hernbrode stated that all of the grant awards are contingent upon successful negotiation of the conservation easements. If the Land Department identifies that there are corridors or utilities access that need to be established, that will be done as part of the conservation easement negotiations to make sure that those corridors are set in place.

Chair McNichol asked Mr. Ewell that in light of the fact that there will not be enough funds available to fund all the projects, if the City of Phoenix had a preference for which parcel to be funded or whether they would consider partial funding of either or both parcels.

Mr. Ewell stated that the City of Phoenix's preference was to receive partial funding of both parcels.

In response to Ms. Gulick's question whether the City would move forward with an acquisition that they did not get funding for, Mr. Ewell responded that the funding is available, however, the City would have to take into consideration the capacity of future acquisitions.

Mr. Anderson asked what the status is of the Sonoran Boulevard. Mr. Ewell responded that it is under construction at the present time. Estimated completion is late 2012 to early 2013.

Ms. Gulick asked if the traffic impact issue has been resolved and whether it will connect with I-17. Mr. Ewell stated that it had not yet been resolved with the community and that there was no planning available at this time.



**G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** There were no responses to the call to the public.

**H. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF HPAC  
PROCEDURE REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE EVENTS:** None

**I. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was declared adjourned by Chair McNichol at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs